GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3040
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005
I.C.H.R.
Mollah Shri Hannan;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra;Zahedi Shri Mahboob

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the one man review committee found that a plan was hatched to scuttle the project "Towards Freedom" outside the Indian Council of Historical Research;

(b) if so, whether ICHR wilfully fabricated lies, ignoring the factual statements in its annual reports;

(c) whether the Committee was severely handicapped by the disappearance of three crucial "TF" files containing 511 pages;

(d) if so, whether the Committee had to rely on annual reports and minutes of various meetings and observed that the files were wilfully removed with some ulterior motive; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (e): One-man Review Committee appointed by the Government of India to review the work of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, in its interim report on "non-publication / stoppage of volumes of 'Towards Freedom' Project by ICHR" has observed that attempts were made to "scuttle the project" through stoppage of funds and interruption in the publication of the volumes. The Committee has stated that it was greatly handicapped because of non- availability of the ICHR's files related to 'Towards Freedom' Project and in their absence it had to depend on published Annual Reports of the Council, agenda papers and minutes of the Council's meetings, press clippings and articles in magazines regarding the controversy, etc.